

NASB Legislative Candidate Questionnaire 2022



NAME: Danielle Conrad – District 46

How can voters contact you?

- Website: www.conradforlegislature.net
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ConradforLegislature/>
- Email: danielle.conrad1@yahoo.com
- Phone: 402-432-3394
- Address: Conrad for Legislature 3818 Dudley Street Lincoln NE 68503

1. **Local Control** - With so many decisions from the legislature impacting local boards, NASB is interested in your view of local control. Regarding education, what decisions do you feel are best made at the school board level vs. the State level?

- *As the daughter of a former school board member and seasoned policymaker with great relationships with local school board members across the state I am grateful for the expertise and service of all local school board members. As a policymaker I know it is critical to strike the right balance among competing interests. Nebraska has a strong history of valuing and respecting local control and should do so whenever possible. It is also important to ensure uniform minimum standards when appropriate to ensure clarity and support for all stakeholders and advance a cohesive educational policy for our great state.*

2. **School Funding** - Every year the legislature makes decisions about the way schools are funded, making predictability of funding a challenge. What changes and/or adjustments, if any, do you think the Legislature should address?

- *I support fully funding TEEOSA to ensure our state continues to have a fantastic public school system and to lessen reliance on property taxes. I also support efforts like LB 132 (2021) to create a school finance review commission to bring together all stakeholders to make improvements and modernize these systems to help our state move forward together.*

3. **Role of Education in the State** - What role do you think PK-12 Education plays in the future success of the State and your community?

- *A strong public education prek through college has always been and remains today a critical plank in my campaign. As a daughter of a public school teacher, product of strong public schools, parent of public school students, and as an award winning legislator for public education efforts I believe strongly in our state's constitutional promise to ensure access to a strong public education for all students. Our strong public schools across Nebraska are rightly a generational point of pride and we must continue to work together to ensure it remains such for generations to come. I can't think of anything more important in charting the future success of our community and State.*

4. **Educational Workforce** - Educational workforce continues to be a challenge across the State from teachers to bus drivers. What would be your plan to address this challenge?

- *As a former 8 year member of the Appropriations Committee I still read the monthly revenue reports. We have a historic opportunity with state revenues outpacing projections and federal relief funds to make generational investments in education, workforce, childcare, housing, and infrastructure. State leaders must be equipped with leadership and mediation skills to foster collaboration with all stakeholders to achieve our shared goals as quickly as possible and not squander these opportunities. Funds where appropriate should be maximized and leveraged to address these issues through loan forgiveness, mentoring programs, bonuses, stipends, etc.*

5. **Mandates** - School districts continue to be challenged by the increasing unfunded mandates put upon them by the State and Federal government. What is your response to mandates and the State's role in them?

- *The State must be a good partner to local schools and must carefully address unfunded mandates to ensure fairness, equity, and balance.*

Final Thoughts

- *Education in Nebraska is a treasure. Our state consistently has high marks on performance metrics including leading the country in graduation rates. However, we also rank towards the bottom of comparisons when it comes to state funding for education and teacher pay. We also have more work to do to address educational equity. The good news is we have a lot to be proud of and investments in education positively impacts our families, our communities, our economy, our workforce, and our state now and for generations to come. We need strong visionary state policymakers to lead and build bridges across the state and across the political spectrum to ensure we maintain and grow a robust public education system where all students and staff can thrive and work together to minimize political divisions among urban and rural communities and cynical political attempts that seek to weaken support for our public schools.*

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